**Seven Defining Characteristics of**

**Essential Questions**

A good essential question:

* Is *open-ended*; that is it typically will not have a single, final, and correct answer.
* Is *thought provoking* and *intellectually engaging*, often sparking discussion and debate.
* Calls for *higher-order thinking*, such as analysis, inference, evaluation, prediction. It cannot be effectively answered by recall alone.
* Points toward *important, transferrable ideas* within (and sometimes across) disciplines.
* Raises *additional questions* and sparks further inquiry.
* Requires *support* and *justification*, not just an answer.
* *Recurs* over time; that is, the question can and should be revisited again and again.

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